

dollar foolish and it defies common logic in this post-9–11 environment. Instead of accurately identifying the new mission and then deciding on the best possible helicopter to carry it out, it is an example of shrinking the mission to fit the assets on hand. The Department of Homeland Security requires a new and larger state-of-the-art cutter-deployed helicopter to meet the growing challenge. Rebuilding a twenty year old helicopter is simply not acceptable. The Coast Guard should move quickly to initiate a competition to procure a modern technology Multi-Mission Cutter Helicopter and related Airborne Use of Force assets that can also be used by Customs, Secret Service and the Border Patrol. Mr. Speaker, as you and others in this body know, I am a fiscal conservative who is always conscious of how we in Washington spend taxpayer dollars. I have also always been a strong advocate for the Coast Guard and believe that this branch of our military service is a big bang for the taxpayer buck. Given the 100 percent success of the current HITRON fleet, I believe this would be one of the most effective and cost-efficient ways to address the enormous vulnerabilities that continue to exist along our nation's coastlines and in our ports and waterways.

APPLAUD AMERICA'S LOCAL
BROADCAST STATIONS

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud America's local broadcast stations for a program they recently launched to assist the families of our men and women in uniform who are fighting the war on terrorism abroad.

As of today, there are more than 140,000 active-duty and reserve personnel serving our great Nation in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world.

I have the privilege of representing the soldiers stationed at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, the 5th Special Forces Group, and the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. The men and women of these premier Army units have been deployed for extensive periods of time, often with little or no break between deployments.

For the families left behind, these extended separations can be trying not only emotionally, but financially as well. In many cases, the primary "bread winner" is the person sent overseas, leaving wives and children to cope with unexpected expenses.

The National Association of Broadcasters and its 6,000 radio station and 1,000 television station members recently partnered with the Armed Forces Relief Trust (AFRT) to help raise funds for those families that are facing financial challenges. The AFRT solicits contributions and then disburses interest-free loans and grants to family members of deployed personnel who are in need. To support this effort, the broadcasters produced and are voluntarily airing Public Service Announcements, so that AFRT can assist even more families in need.

The AFRT provides important services. They may provide assistance so a soldier can

fly home to attend their father's funeral. The services may include a special reading program for a sailor's daughter. They may assist with special medical attention for a pilot's spouse, or college tuition for a Marine's child.

Mr. Speaker, our fighting men and women and their families are sacrificing a great deal on our behalf. It is the duty of all Americans to provide comfort and assistance in any way they can.

I extend a special thanks to the radio and television station owners who are calling attention to this important cause. They are providing an important public service and I commend them for their efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 17, 2003, I was unable to record my vote on three resolutions under suspension of the rules, and one motion changing the hour of meeting. My unavoidable absence was due to the fact that I was hosting an important forum on Chronic Wasting Disease in Wisconsin with federal and state leaders.

Had I been able to vote, I would have voted the following:

Roll call #620: Yes, Roll call #621: Yes, Roll call #622: Yes, Roll call #623: Yes.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF SIMHA LAINER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. SHERMAN and I rise today to pay tribute to our good friend, Simha Lainer who will be celebrating his 100th birthday at a dinner and reception hosted by the New Community Jewish High School on Sunday, December 14, 2003. Simha has been a cornerstone of the Jewish community in Los Angeles for many years, and he continues to play an active role in the promotion of Jewish education and many other worthy causes.

Simha was born in the Ukraine. As a young man, he spent time in the Middle East, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, and Mexico. He immigrated to the United States with his family in 1951. Although he worked in the textile industry, and later in real estate, his passion has always been education.

Simha, along with his wife Sara (z"l) and his three remarkable sons Mark, Nahum and Luis, who in their own right have supported so many worthy causes, have pioneered efforts to make a Jewish education available to as many children as possible. In 1989, Simha and his family established the Simha and Sara Lainer Fund for Jewish Education. As a result of this fund, the Los Angeles Bureau of Jewish Education has provided financial aid to many students that otherwise would have been unable to study the Torah. The fund has also provided Simha and his family an opportunity to honor religious schoolteachers and early

childhood educators for their hard work and dedication.

Simha has also provided critical leadership to promote upper levels of Jewish education. For example, he served on the Board of Directors at the University of Judaism, the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Community Foundation, and the Board of the West Coast Friends of Bar Ilan University. Simha is also the founder of the Western Region of American Friends of the Hebrew University.

In addition to his many educational achievements here in the United States, Simha has also displayed an unwavering commitment to the establishment and maintenance of Israeli institutions of education. Thanks to his leadership and vision, thousands of Israeli and American children will be prepared to lead productive lives and promote religious and cultural tolerance.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in saluting Simha for all of his outstanding contributions and to wish him a happy 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING CHESTER COUNTY
CHAPTER 377 OF THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FED-
ERAL EMPLOYEES

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chester County Chapter 377 of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees and all of its members on the 50th anniversary of its founding.

The National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), an organization of former workers of the United States government, was established in 1921 and has grown to over 420,000 members—each of whom is affiliated with one of 1,591 chapters nationwide. They perform an advocacy role at the national level in promoting and protecting the annuity and health insurance rights of all former employees. It also provides significant services to all United States government retirees by aiding them in understanding and utilizing their individual rights under current directives.

Much like other national advocacy groups, NARFE is separated into state organizations which are further subdivided into a number of local chapters based on population and geography. In Pennsylvania, there is a statewide federation of approximately 22,000 members who likewise are affiliated with Chester County Chapter 377 or one of the 56 other local chapters.

The Chester County Chapter 377 of NARFE encompasses the entire county and has a membership of over 400 retirees. The Chapter holds ten meetings a year hosting outside speakers on a variety of issues important to its members. I am honored to be speaking at their 50th Anniversary luncheon on December 2, 2003. In addition to the meetings, NARFE members are informed on retirement issues through a national monthly magazine and from periodic chapter newsletters.

I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Chester County Chapter 377 of the National Association of Retired Federal